



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

8th November 2020

Let us watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC and then set the table for our shared meal.



- **Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.**

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food. As we celebrate together let us define the occasion by adding things on our table that bring us joy and which we can share with others in our community.

- **Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal**

Let us set our meal for this day. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship.



The Kingdom of heaven is like; So many times Jesus speaks of the God's Kingdom and it's citizens. It is Jesus way of speaking to us the value of belonging to Him. This parable speaks about us, God's church waiting to be called into a wedding feast. Our lamps are our souls which have the evidence of Christ's life within us to all we share with. The oil is the Holy Spirit that keeps our souls burning for Him, and this burning is just like being in love. We are called to live for God as if today may be our very last, but we need the oil to keep that fire burning and keep away the darkness. Then we will see

clearly our Father in heaven and the gateway which is Christ the Churches bridegroom. The choice is ours to be God's people and to keep the light on and as we submit to Him. His love kindles our hearts and quickens our souls to shine for him even in the darkness. Let us ask God to fill our lamps with His oil, even to overflowing..

opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.

Be still and silent. Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you. Pray:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**



- **Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings**

A reading from the Book of Joshua, Chapter 24 beginning at Verse 1

1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors - Terah and his sons Abraham and

Nahor - lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. 14 "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.



15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." 16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 18 and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the

Lord, for he is our God." 19 But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." 21 And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" 22 Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." 23 He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." 24 The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

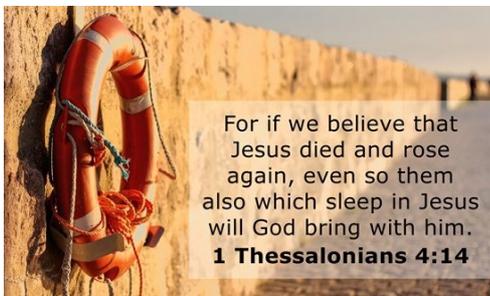
Psalm 78:1-7

- 1 Give heed to my teaching, O my people:
incline your ears to the words of my mouth;
- 2 For I will open my mouth in a parable:
and expound the mysteries of former times.
- 3 What we have heard and known:
what our forebears have told us,
- 4 We will not hide from their children,
but declare to a generation yet to come:
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
his mighty and wonderful works.
- 5 He established a law in Jacob
and made a decree in Israel:
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
- 6 That future generations might know,
and those yet unborn: that they in turn might
teach it to their children;
- 7 So that they might put their confidence in God:
and not forget his works, but keep his commandments,



A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, Chapter 4 beginning at Verse 9

Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, 11 to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, 12 so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and be dependent on no one.



13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the

archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 25 beginning at verse 1
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'

13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Sentence

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

- ***eating reflectively and responding to the passage***

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

And the door was shut - Now therefore revere the Lord.



Joshua spoke to the Israelites; the choice is yours Will you forsake the Lord for foreign gods. The people shouted back "No we will serve the Lord and Him we will obey." Sadly, the Israelites forgot their promise and suffered not because God smote them but because they chose to leave God for other gods. Their love for him died out like an unattended flame and they were ravished by war and affliction. In affect they stopped God from being their guide, their protector and their assurance of salvation. It is no different for us today, when we ask God to be Lord of our lives we are asking the Holy Spirit to burn within our souls and the lamp we have continues to burn brightly. Without this lamp we can become lost in the dark things of world, wounded, and destitute.

• **prayer-time**

Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith.



Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer. We also remember David, Ron & Ann; Les;; Kathy; David; Pat ;Izabelle; Peta ; Mariette; Joanne; Peter G, Peter C; Nicholas B; Samantha; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Brenda; Pat; Brendon; Fr Peter; Fr Percy & Betty; Bp David; Bill; David H; Marjorie; Diane; Jean; Mitchell and family; Kathy; Carolyn;; Angela; Carol; Shirley; Lucy Ann; Margaret, Lyn; , Ted & Joyce; Irene; Linda; Tina; Wendy; Chris; Trevor; Liz; Tristan & Trish S; Lainie and Nicholas; John Carroll; Jac Bishop, Joan;

Joanie; Andrew; Kerrie; Mary, Margaret’s mum, Kate, Lynn, Colin, Cathy, Carole, Allison, Ann, Jean, *and any others we wish to say either silently or aloud.*

Let us say the Lord’s Prayer Together. Our Father

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand: keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes we may go out joyfully to meet him, and with him enter into the marriage feast that you have prepared for all who truly love you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen



Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.

***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be amongst us and remain with us always.***

Amen.

Intentional connection beyond your home

After our Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with a person who is on your heart and mind at this time. It might be one of the people you invited to your meal, or a member of your family, or someone who doesn’t have family, or a friend, Let God guide you to the person or people with whom you connect. Contact the person.

Start a conversation: ‘I was thinking of you.....’ Or What did you think of..... in songs of praise etc.

